

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /030 W

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R 090940Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 530

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINTS, KS

SUBJECT: ROKG PLANNING STRICTER CENSORSHIP OF ENTERTAINMENT MEDIA
AND PERIODICALS

BEGIN SUMMARY: ROKG HAS ANNOUNCED PLANS TO TIGHTEN
CENSORSHIP OF THEATRE, CINEMA, STAGE SHOWS AND RECORD
INDUSTRY AS WELL AS PERIODICALS AND WE EXPECT
IMPLEMENTATION TO BE STRICT. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO PAK CHONG-KYU, ARTS DIRECTOR AT

MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND INFORMATION, (MCUI), ROKG HAS
DECIDED TO TAKE "PURIFICATION MEASURES" TO REGULATE
ENTERTAINMENT MEDIA MUCH MORE STRICTLY. PAK STATED
JUNE 8, ROKG HOPES TO ELIMINATE ALL ENTERTAINMENT WHICH
WORKS AGAINST NATIONAL UNITY OR WHICH DEGRADES NATIONAL
MORALS. ENTERTAINMENT WHICH "BLINDLY IMITATES FOREIGN
TRENDS WITHOUT CLEAR AWARENESS OF NATIONAL IDENTITY"
WILL BE STRICTLY CENSORED. THIS INCLUDES ENTERTAINMENT
WHICH ENCOURAGES CONFLICTS AMONG PEOPLE OF DIFFERING
SOCIAL STATUS, PROVINCIAL AND GENERATIONAL BACKGROUND
OR WHICH SHOWS ILLICIT LOVE AFFAIRS, VIOLENCE AND CRIME.

2. TO ENFORCE THESE MEASURES ROLE OF PRESENT KOREAN
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ART AND CULTURE ETHICS COMMITTEE WILL BE STRENGTHENED.
IN ADDITION NEW PROCEDURES FOR STRICTER MUCI REVIEW
OF ALL MEDIA PRODUCTS WILL BE ESTABLISHED.

3. DURING PREVIOUS WEEK, ROKG ALSO ANNOUNCED THEY WOULD BE DEVISING STRICTER STANDARDS FOR MAGAZINES, USING SIMILAR METHODS OF SCREENING AND REVIEW. FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS SUCH A "TIME" AND "NEWSWEEK" HAVE ALREADY HAD PAGES PERTAINING TO KOREA REMOVED FROM EDITIONS SOLD HERE.

4. PRESS, OF COURSE, IS ALREADY SUBJECT TO PRE-CENSORSHIP OF PRESS STORIES, WITH KCIA AGENTS ACTUALLY MANNING DESKS IN NEWSPAPER OFFICES ACCORDING TO SEVERAL INDEPENDENT SOURCES.

5. SUCH STORIES AS THE MAY DEMONSTRATION AT SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, THE GULF OIL CAMPAIGN FUND IMBROGLIO AND OTHERS HAVE NOT APPEARED IN KOREAN PRESS AT ALL. JUNE 5 TH FIRING OF HANKUK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY'S DEAN KIM CHONG-CHUN AND PROFESSOR STEPHEN MOON (MUN TONG-HWAN) WERE NOT REPORTED FULLY. KIM'S "RESIGNATION" WAS NOTED WITHOUT EXPLANATION BUT MOON'S FIRING, THOUGH KNOWN IN UNIVERSITY CIRCLES, DIDN'T HIT KOREAN LANGUAGE PRESS AT ALL.

COMMENT: AS IN CASE EMERGENCY MEASURE NO. 9, REAL ASSESSMENT OF CENSORSHIP PLANS MUST AWAIT EVIDENCE OF HOW STRINGENTLY ROKG POLICIES ENTERTAINMENT MEDIA AND PERIODICALS. IF NEWSPAPERS ARE AN EXAMPLE, HOWEVER, IMPLEMENTATION WILL BE STRICT, AT LEAST ON POLITICALLY SENSITIVE ISSUES. LOCAL MOVIE PRODUCERS TELL US THEY ALSO EXPECT MORE PURITANICAL STANDARDS TO BE ENFORCED. SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENSORSHIP, CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, INFORMATION CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SEOUL04091
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750201-0393
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197506103/baaaaulb.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EAP
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 971009
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PINT, SCUL, KS
To: STATE INFO TOKYO
CINCPAC
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006